GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7250
ANSWERED ON:14.05.2002
VACCINES FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have not invested in research to find new vaccines for various infectious diseases;

(b) if not, whether any research facility have been set up to exclusively focus on developing tissue-culture based vaccines; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a) Investment in research to develop new vaccines for various infectious diseases in India has been made on a sustained basis since the eighties. An immunotherapeutic and immunoprophylactic vaccine for leprosy i.e., Immuvac developed by the National Institute of Immunology is already in the market. Focused research to develop new vaccines for Malaria, Japanese Encephalitis, Tuberculosis, Cholera, HIV/AIDS and rabies has been initiated under a National Jai Vigyan Mission on Science & Technology. Significant progress has been made towards development of vaccines for Cholera and Rabies. Under a Indo-US Vaccine Action Programme (VAP), two candidate vaccines for rotaviral diarrhoea are ready for Phase-I trials. Development of edible vaccines for cholera and rabies has also made good progress.

(b) & (c) Research is under progress for the development and standardization of tissue-culture based vaccine(s) for Japanese Encephalitis at the National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi. Two units, i.e., the Human Immunologicals, Ooty, Tamil Nadu and Pasteur Institute, Conoor, Tamil Nadu are currently engaged in the production of the tissue-culture based vaccine(s).